

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05265 090903Z

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ACTION DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8366

UNCLAS TOKYO 5265

DEPT PASS TO DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OTRA, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN COOPERATION: TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

REF: (A) STATE 037129, (B) TOKYO 4256, (C) STATE 082657

1. EMBASSY FORWARDING APPLICABLE PORTIONS REFTEL C IN LETTERS TO GOJ OFFICIALS CONCERNED. WE ANTICIPATE OFFER TO POSTPONE TRIP TO WEEK OF MAY 17 AND DETAILS OF SPECIFIC US DISCUSSION TOPICS WILL GALVANIZE VARIOUS MINISTRIES INTO PROVIDING FORMAL RESPONSE TO PROPOSED VISIT. PRIOR TO DISPATCH OF LETTER MITI TELEPHONED READINESS TO TALK WITH US TEAM.

2. RE DOUBTS CONCERNING UNIT TRAINS AND AREA A DISCUSSIONS RAISED REFTEL C, PARAS 3 AND 5, WE CREDIT THIS CONFUSION TO FACT THAT JAPANESE REPS AT INITIAL MEETING (REPORTED REFTEL B) DID NOT ALL HAVE GRASP OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SUBJECTS AND TO INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION AMONG GOJ MINISTRIES, AS WELL AS TO GENERAL DISINCLINATION OF JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY TO REACT QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO ANY NEW INITIATIVE. REFTEL C SHOULD HELP TO CLARIFY US VIEWS FOR JAPANESE AND BRING IN OPINIONS OF TECHNICAL PEOPLE. FYI: MITI HAS INFORMALLY TOLD US THEY ARE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING AREA A, ARE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS BUT INTERESTED IN HEARING US VIEWS ON AREA B, AND ARE NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING LOW POLLUTION ENERGY EFFICIENT AUTO ENGINES. END FYI. AS REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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REFTEL B, CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY ALREADY INDICATED INTEREST IN

TALKS.

3. ONCE JAPANESE HAVE HAD CHANCE TO DIGEST CONTENTS OF
LETTER CONTAINING US PROPOSALS, WE WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT
REACTIONS.
HODGSON

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